[10th August 1929

(ii) to state how many, if any, out of commercial undertakings in the Forest department ever worked with profit until the end of last year?

A.—(i) The list of commercial undertakings at present in the Forest department is—

(1) The Mount Stuart Working Circle.
(2) The Nilambur Valley Forests.
(3) The Chenat Nair Exploitation Scheme.

(ii) The Nilambur valley forest concern is working at a profit and the profit earned in 1927–28 is Rs. 1,94,837. The Mount Stuart working concern worked at a profit of Rs. 18,961 in 1925–26.

Employment of agents in England and other foreign countries for handling Madras timbers.

*289 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the terms on which agents are employed in England and the other foreign countries for handling Madras timbers and finding markets for them;

(*b*) the terms on which Messrs. Howard Brothers & Co., London, were appointed as agents until last year; and

(*c*) whether Government propose to invite applications for the several agencies before filling up any of them?

A.—(*a*) There are no such agents now.

(*b*) The agency was terminated in December 1926. The Government do not propose to publish the terms now.

(*c*) No.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to clause (*b*) to my question as to the terms on which Messrs. Howard Brothers & Co. were appointed as agents, the reply is that the agency was terminated in December 1926 and that the Government do not propose to publish the terms now. May I know the reasons why?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Because the contract itself terminated in 1926 and it is not in the public interests to publish the terms now."

Forest Panchayats

Consideration of the Board's Standing Order regarding Forest Panchayats.

*290 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Board's Standing Order regarding Forest Panchayats has been framed and considered by the Government;

(*b*) whether he is prepared to publish it for consideration by those affected; and

(*c*) whether he will state what it is?

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) The draft Standing Order is still under the consideration of the Government.

(*b*) The suggestion will be considered.